

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 TRSE-00 SAI-01

IO-10 MC-01 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5066

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0335

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES ELLSWORTH, SHRONTZ AND LABERGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJ: REPLACEMENT FIGHTER

REF: (A) STATE 14515 AND (B) 014516; (C) THE HAGUE 298

1. DUTCH REACTION TO US YF-16 OFFER PRESENTATION TO CONSORTIUM IN BRUSSELS HAS BEEN VARIED. WHILE THOSE BASICALLY FAVORING AN AMERICAN SELECTION, INCLUDING THE MILITARY AND CERTAIN KEY PARLIAMENTARIANS, HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEMSELVES AS WELL SATISFIED, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF OPPOSITION HAS BEEN PUBLICALLY EXPRESSED. THIS OPPOSITION BREAKS DOWN INTO TWO MAIN CATEGORIES: GROUPS WHO HAVE BASIC ANTI-AMERICAN HANG-UPS (INCLUDING ANTI-NUCLEAR ADVOCATES, EUROPEAN-ISTS AND PACIFICISTS) AND GROUPS WHO ADVOCATE SELECTION OF A EUROPEAN CONTENDER AS BEING A BETTER LONG-RANGE
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FINANCIAL DEAL FOR THE DUTCH (INCLUDING LABOR UNIONS

AND SOME INDUSTRIALISTS). WE BELIEVE LITTLE CAN BE DONE TO CHANGE THE ATTITUDES OF THE FIRST GROUP WHOSE PREDILECTIONS ARE IDEOLOGICAL, BUT THAT A GREAT DEAL CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE SECOND GROUP WHOSE POSITIONS ARE BASED ON FACTUAL GROUNDS, ALBEIT ERRONEOUS.

2. ACCORDINGLY, TO BRING DIRECTLY TO THE MEDIA AND TO THE GENERAL DUTCH PUBLIC, WHO HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM, THE SALIENT FACTS OF THE AMERICAN YF-16 PROPOSAL, WE RECOMMEND THAT A SYMPOSIUM BE HELD IN THE HAGUE LAYING OUT (A) THE SUPERIORITY OF THE YF-16 PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS, (B) THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS THAT WILL FLOW TO DUTCH LABOR AND BUSINESS, (C) THE TECHNOLOGICAL BENEFITS THAT WILL FLOW TO THE DUTCH AIRCRAFT AND SPACE INDUSTRIES, AND (D) THE NATURE OF THE EUROPEAN MANAGEMENT OFFICE. TO THIS SYMPOSIUM WE WOULD INVITE KEY MEMBERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THE PARLIAMENT, THE MILITARY, THE LABOR UNIONS, DUTCH INDUSTRY AND THE MEDIA.

3. IN LIGHT OF WELCOME REFTEL B WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT PROGRAM WOULD BE CHAIRED BY ASST. SECY. SHRONTZ AND CONDUCTED BY TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS FROM DOD, GD AND PRATT-WHITNEY WHO CAN ADDRESS CRITICAL POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE PLUS OTHER THAT DOD MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE AND THOSE WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE RAISED FROM THE FLOOR.

WE NOW SUGGEST WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, AS IDEAL DATE FOR SYMPOSIUM AS CRITICAL PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE BUDGET DEBATES ARE PLANNED TO COMMENCE THE FOLLOWING WEEK (REFTEL C).

4. WE BELIEVE PROPOSED SYMPOSIUM IS BEST WAY TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DUTCH PUBLIC THE OUTSTANDING MILITARY AND FINANCIAL MERITS OF THE FY-16 PROPOSAL AND THEREBY COUNTER, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, OPPOSITION AND AT THE SAME TIME FAVORABLY IMPRESS THOSE WHO ARE INFLUENTIAL IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.
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